

Ellen Story Commission on Postpartum Depression  
Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2021  
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

**Commissioners present:** Representative James O’Day (co-chair); Johanna Wakelin on behalf of Senator Joan Lovely (co-chair); Representative Mindy Domb; Representative Carole Fiola; Victoria Mori on behalf of Senator Bruce Tarr; Senator Becca Rausch; Senator Anne Gobi; Senator John Keenan; Timoria McQueen Saba; Margaret Hannah; Jessie Colbert; Nneka Hall; Rebecca Butler; Lauren Almeida; Dr. Leena Mittal; Peggy Kaufman; Divya Kumar; Dr. Tiffany Moore-Simas; Dr. Lisa Scarfo; Gail DeRiggi; Dr. Julie Johnston; Dr. Michael Yogman; Margarita O’Neill-Arana; Margot Tracy; Jill Fieleke

**Commissioners absent:** Dr. Lee Cohen; Karin Downs; Representative Kim Ferguson; Senator Anne Gobi; Senator John Keenan; Kerry LaBounty; Representative Liz Miranda; Elizabeth Murphy; Dr. Jayne Singer; Dr. Joshua Sparrow; Senator Bruce Tarr

Several members of the public and other state employees were also present

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

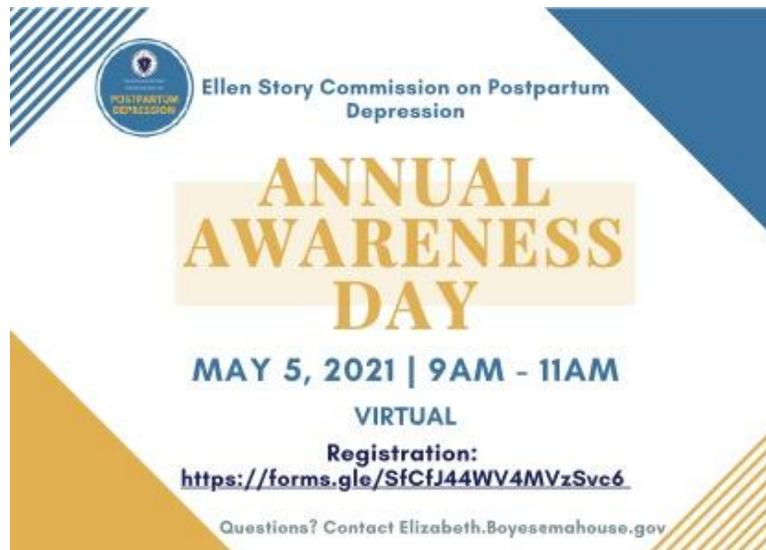
Representative James O’Day and Elizabeth Boyes welcomed Commissioners and guests. Commissioners introduced themselves and the organizations they represent on the Commission. The Commission welcomed one new Commissioner:

- Senator Becca Rausch

The Commission approved the minutes from the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting.

## 2. Annual Awareness Day

- Date: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 11 am
- Theme: COVID-19: Changing the Perinatal Experience
- Speakers: Caroline Flowers Tomekowou LMHC PMH-C, Dr. Sharon Dekel, and the investigator and co-investigators of the Perinatal Experiences And COVID-19 Effects (PEACE) Study Dr. Cindy Liu, Dr. Carmina Erdei, and Dr. Leena Mittal.
- Event Layout:
  1. Introduction
  2. Presentations
  3. Moderated Q&A discussion panel
  4. Closing remarks
- Discussion point: Can the event include an advocacy component?
- For the virtual event, we are using Microsoft Teams. The event is free and open to the public.
- **Registration:** <https://forms.gle/SfCfJ44WV4MVzSvc6>



### 3. Administrative Items

- Role of Commissioners
  1. To attend quarterly meetings
  2. Provide direction on the activities of the Commission including community engagement, education, advocacy, policies, etc.
  3. Participate in planning the annual awareness day and providing feedback on legislation and budget items.
  4. Collaborate with other Commissioners.
- Discussion included:
  - The Commission needing to spend more time defining what each role means and what that means in terms of taking action.
  - The need to define group norms and expectations.
  - Clarification on engaging with presenters and steps for following up with presenters.
  - An additional meeting will be arranged to address these topics.
- At the last meeting Commissioner Nneka Hall presented her idea on Mother Is Supreme postpartum care center. She asked for Commissioners to connect with her to offer support and resources for this project. Few Commissioners reached out and we discussed why and how we can improve collaboration going forward. The Commission will schedule a meeting for Commissioner Hall to present on her idea and allow for more Commissioner discussion.
- Purpose of Commission
  - Chapter 313 of the Acts of 2010, Section (a): There shall be a special commission on postpartum depression to provide guidance and advice to the governor, the general court and the secretary of health and human services on current research on postpartum depression, including, but not limited to, best and promising practices in the prevention, detection and treatment of postpartum depression and to recommend policies, including legislation, to promote greater public awareness, screening and treatment of postpartum depression. The special commission may conduct public hearings, forums or meetings to gather information and to raise awareness of postpartum depression, including the sponsorship of or participation in statewide or regional conferences.
  - **This discussion is postponed to another meeting.**
- Commission recommitment to sub-committees
  - In the past, the Commission had sub-committees and has tried to reinstate the sub-committee structure. We want to gauge interest in recommitting to sub-committees.
  - Clarification needed on how the Commission should communicate.

- Ideas: CC emails, create a Google doc to work on drafting statements, and having additional meetings.

#### **4. Announcements**

- a. Commissioner Leena Mittal asked for advocacy support on the MCPAP for Moms and PSI expansion budget ask. Commissioners can email their Legislators asking that they support this budget ask. Budget hearings have yet to be scheduled. Hearings will provide opportunity for Commissioners to submit letters of testimony advocating for the budget ask.

#### **5. Adjournment**

##### **Next Steps:**

- Commission emails will be CC instead of BCC.
- Meeting agendas will be developed with Commissioners offering input.
- Commissioners who do not have headshots or bios on the PPD Commission website need to send those materials to Elizabeth.
- Schedule meeting for Commissioner Hall to present on Mother Is Supreme postpartum care center.
- Commissioners want to have a meeting on the legislative and budget process. We will look into arranging that.
- Look into arranging a Meet the Commissioners event for Commissioners to get to know each other.
- Schedule meeting to discuss purpose of the Commission.